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COLLECTIVE VISIONING FOR A

BALKAN GREEN DEAL

Prepared by

Balkan Green Deal Coalition

1. DECARBONISATION: CLIMATE ACTION, CLEAN ENERGY, SMART MOBILITY

Guiding questions:
What do you want to see around you in 2030?
- What kinds of leisure activities are accessible to you?

To the community?
How is mobility & transport organised?
How is work organised?
How is your energy being produced & used?
Who is it controlled by & how is it managed?

HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE REGION IN 2030 IN TERMS OF DECARBONISATION?

- Centrally planned democratised decarbonisation
- Community-owned and controlled renewable projects
- Free and quality public transportation
- Train mobility between the region
- Bike lanes on all main streets / separated & citizens educated not to walk on them
- No cars. A LOT of bikes. On the periphery cars as commons
- Community based systems for energy supply
- Usage of heat pumps if sustainable
- Filters in the factories
- Solar and wind power as the only source of electric power
- New recycling industries
- Small local biogas energy productions on local farms and agriculture areas
- Subsidization of solar panels on every house, especially in the rural areas and agricultural areas
- Decentralized, locally produced and used diverse renewable energy, in accordance with the specific available resources and needs
- Financial policy which allows households to sell surplus of their renewable energy to the state
- Electric vehicles (with sufficient charging stations everywhere), with an accent on public transport (also running on electricity produced by renewable and nature friendly energy)
- Large coal energy production facilities transformed into renewable energy producers (PV/wind)
- Smart grid for renewable energy (is) in place
- Upgraded electricity distribution network for renewable energy
- Local innovations (contributing towards decarburization) supported by the governments
- Affordable and adequate housing for everyone

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? WHAT GETS YOU EXCITED/HAPPY?

- Gender equality in climate action policies
- Low-carbon public spaces & luxuries like parks & other public areas
- Developed awareness for clean air and clean environment
- Free time with a family in fresh air
- Electric public transport fueled by renewables
- Degrowth lifestyle: more free time to spend in nature with loved ones
- Local and traditionally cultivated food
- Protected areas with rich biodiversity and regenerated ecosystems
- Smart mobility, electric public transport, electric cars, eco innovation
- More public spaces for pedestrians & cyclists
- Spaces for people to connect with each other
- Community spaces for political education
- Community-owned renewable energy, controlled locally
- Education curriculum - holistic education including climate and energy justice
- Citizen empowerment - exposing corruption and unsustainable practices
- More leisure time to spend on hobbies and with loved ones, less work
- Clean air, water and soil - healthier people, animals and plants
- Abundant and thriving nature

2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION & TRADE

Guiding questions:

- What do you want to see around you in 2030?

What kinds of work do you see?
How is work organised?
How are products made?
How is infrastructure organised?
How is waste managed?

How do you envision the region in 2030 in terms of circular economy?

- A halt on hoarding and capitalist induced consumption
- Zero-emission mobility for all - green busses & public transport
- A lot of commons.
- Reusing. No corporations and no capitalist lobbying on local development
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Agroforestry, Water conservation and wise use of it, Renewable Energy
- Mass solar panel use for energy
- Creation of a Balkan program to support start-ups with grants for projects on ecological and social justice
- New sustainable business models to use the waste and make circular systems that protect nature. Eg. production of bricks from recycled materials
- Focus on other points in reduction such as reuse centers, workers' rights, development of small local businesses, no packaging, and if packaging needs to be used, to be sustainable and recyclable
- Thriving reuse / second hand exchange
- Redistribution from the ones that have a lot to the ones that do not have (different goods, products, devices)
- Set up Welfare Indicators to measure the quality of life, GDP is not the one
- Introduce the "the Polluter pays" policy principle for holding polluters accountable for their actions
- Supported green circular economy in rural areas should to prevent youth from leaving rural areas
- Zero waste communities/cities Accent on locally produced, "green" products by small businessesGovernment support for innovations and small businesses

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? WHAT GETS YOU EXCITED/HAPPY?

- Clean energy intercity transport
- Equal access to quality public transport for everyone
- A collective place where youth gathers and reuses materials to create new locally needed products
- Everyone learning about recycling and sustainability
- Having a degrowth economy
- Small nature-based and eco-friendly businesses
- A developed blue economy (Adriatic Sea) (to be discussed)
- Global agreement on Common Values (zero waste as a mainstream)
- Societies prospering in harmony with nature

3. DEPOLLUTION: AIR, WATER & SOIL

Guiding questions:

- What do you want to see around you in 2030?
- How is air / water / soil pollution managed?

How is air / water / soil pollution prevented?

How do you envision the region in 2030 in terms of depollution?

- Being able to breathe clean air and not using masks
- Small scale and deliberative quality local production
- Establishing a Balkan eco-label standard
- Consumers who buy local productsSuitable filters for factories that are causing air pollution
- Re-educating the youth from young age to respect and preserve the environment
- Educated population on depollution and nature restoration practices
- “Cradle to cradle” as a main principle

What are you looking forward to? What gets you excited/happy?

- Empowered local farmers around
- A thriving local economy based on nature's protection
- Clean natural elements!
- No animal-borne diseases, healthy communities
- No air pollution and water issues
- Universal, affordable and sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a fundamental human right
- Nature to have a legal standing

4. SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS & RURAL AREAS

Guiding questions:

- What do you want to see around you in 2030?

What kinds of food do you see?
What is the smell around you?
How is the food made?
How is it cooked?
How is it consumed?
How is it traded?

How do you envision the region in 2030 in terms of food?

- Food free from pesticides, local farmers, and end of industrial animal farming
- Small farms with organic food
- Cutting off the meat industry
- Organic rural areas, organic production of food
- Organic farm system, well-educated farmers
- Permaculture
- Buying local & producing local
- Food that is transparent about its carbon footprint including the whole cycle of food production, transport and processing
- A plant based diet on menus in schools, state institutions and elsewhere
- Access to quality local organic food with low carbon footprint Recycling and degradable materials used for food packaging

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? WHAT GETS YOU EXCITED/HAPPY?

- Gardening in cities
- Young people to return to agriculture
- Empowered youth in rural areas
- Real rural prosperity, not fake political 'rural development'
- Prosperity based on human needs
- No green mafia in the agriculture industry in the Balkans, local farmers deciding on price and production
- Making new brands of rural areas with the help of government
- Youth to realize that the with real action and dedication to organic practice is the healthy future
- A halt to food waste
- Food redistribution and enough food for everyone

5. NATURAL CAPITAL: PROTECTION & RESTORATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

Guiding questions:
What do you want to see around you in 2030?
What kinds of leisure activities are accessible to you?
To the community?

- **How do people relate to one another? How do people relate to the natural surroundings?**

How do you envision the region in 2030 in terms of natural capital?

- **Protection efforts centered around local & indigenous knowledge**
- **Actions for planting trees**
- **Thriving nature-based solutions**
- **Clean forests and rivers**
- **Bans on construction of big polluting industrial and extractive projects**
- **True nature-based, localised solutions**
- **Education/information for how important is to have a holistic approach to the natural capital especially in rural areas**
- **Protected areas**
- **Promotion of organic farming and elementary steps to protect ecosystems**
- **Critically thinking population with knowledge of efforts to protect the nature**
- **Free flowing rivers (established NO - GO zones for hydropower projects)**
- **Developed sustainable eco - tourism**
- **Established blue flag beaches**

What are you looking forward to? What gets you excited/happy?

- **Collectively abandoning the neoliberal way of thinking about nature**
- **Free time to spend in forests**
- **More green public spaces in cities**

6. ARTS, CULTURE, EDUCATION & LEARNING

Guiding questions:
What do you see around you?
How does your home & neighborhood look like & feel like?
What kinds of music, dance & art do you hear & see?
What kinds of learning & education do you see?

- How does the community take care of the individuals & vice versa?

How do you envision the region in 2030 in terms of education, learning, arts & culture?

- Access to free quality public education for everyone
- Education for critical thinking and system change provided directly to the kindergartens and schools
- Science to be more available to everyone. Especially the natural sciences, so that everyone can take action in climate change adaptation and be able to fight for climate justice
- A ban and denouncement of corporate lobbying on policymakers and scientists
- Many intercultural art events especially for youth
- Changing mentality and education, mental health and environment educationEducation mobility without borders
- Digitized formal education system when needed
- Education intertwined with play, abandon limiting grading system and allow for free flowing creativity of youth and adults
- Educational system rooted in practical work
- Nature-based holistic education
- Holistic approach to education
- More educational programs in the schools about agriculture, earth preservations, ecosystems, commons, decentralized creation of educational curriculum, every local school to be able to teach according to their surroundings and local history as well. Ex: if it is agricultural region teach the students about that and let them prosper it
- Constant support to arts and creativity-inducing projects in formal and informal education
- Prosperity of political art
- Digital and adequate (relevant) education made possible and easy in order to be prepared for this (COVID crisis) and the future crises that will come - climate and resource crises
- Education tailored to visible and non-visible disabilities of all pupils
- Political education that focuses on the present issues and builds generations that will be prepared for the upcoming crises
- Education for mental health, dealing with grief, loss and the climate crisis and building resilience and solidarity amongst communities that are and will be affected
- Promote sustainable development skills and practices in education, as well as through creative arts and culture
- Education based on empathy and deep care for one another and the planet

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? WHAT GETS YOU EXCITED/HAPPY?

- Cultural abundances, people living in harmony with one another while practicing and sharing their distinct roots, culture & history
- Young people thinking critically and challenging the outside world
- Equality of education for all pupils
- Deep collaboration between officials and civil society

7. GOVERNANCE & DECISION MAKING

Guiding questions:
What do you want to see around you in 2030?
Who is part of your community?
How are decisions made?

- How is conflict resolved?How does the community take care of the individuals & vice versa?

How do you envision the region in 2030 in terms of governance & decision making?

- All governments of the Balkans to create an Ad-hoc group for the Balkan Green Deal
- Direct democracy, participative and rotational governance
- Participative democracy & rotational 'officials' - no political &/or party elites
- Citizens participating in budget preparation and spending
- More green political party involved in decision-making
- More power to local politics.
- Defining politics as something everyone practices not just something "politicians" do
- Acknowledging from governments that the climate crisis is underway and implementing climate justice actions towards stopping it
- A Balkan-governed action task force for saving the nature, and the wild world
- A new era of thinking about Balkan countries and their integration
- More financial support by EU directly given to the local governing bodies
- More financial support to the civil sector to be collaborating on tackling these issues
- New system of governance organized by civil society
- More support to the small businesses that though their business ideas and implementation aim to achieve environmental protection"Green Seat" at Parliaments (maybe as a transitory action)
- On-line citizens' based decision-making for the cities

What are you looking forward to? What gets you excited/happy?

- A critical mass of critically thinking individuals
- Real and honest left-green options in politics
- Decision making by the people
- Sustainable decision-making regarding environmental issues
- Active citizens and more aware regarding environmental issues that they face

ADDITIONAL VISIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTIVE VISION:

How do you envision the region in 2030?

- Housing justice! Everyone has their own home and adequate living conditions
- No borders on the Balkans and happy and healthy people!
- Migrant justice: Free mobility of people, no borders anymore
- Prosperous sustainable Balkan tourism
- Climate-friendly and socially-just region
- Clean roads and better infrastructure between areas in the region

What are you looking forward to? What gets you excited/happy?

- Communities revolving around deep care for one another
- Labor justice in the Balkan countries
- Gender & generational equity
- People thinking about their future
- Clean and green villages, towns and cities, smelling of flowers, and filled with happy and content people with deep consciousness for environmental and public health



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